

Japan Official Denies CIA Link

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TOKYO, March 28—Rumors and speculation about the activities of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Japan, which have been popping up increasingly, bubbled into today's parliamentary question period.

A spokesman for the opposition Japan Socialist Party asked Foreign Minister Takeo Miki whether the Japanese government and the CIA exchanged information. The Socialist said that former Premier Nobusuke Kishi had exchanged information with the CIA some years ago.

Miki replied that he knew of no such exchanges. He said that the American Embassy in Tokyo was naturally in close contact with the CIA but that

he knew of no unit at the American Embassy. He said he knew of no subversive activities.

Contacts Assumed

It is commonly accepted that Japanese and American intelligence services do have contacts.

The Socialist's questions appeared to arise from magazine and newspaper articles here recently.

The major charge that has cropped up in recent weeks holds that the CIA contributed money to help elect members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, generally pro-American, over candidates of the opposition parties, mostly anti-American, in the Jan. 29 general elections.

The ruling party did better than expected and staved off what most political observers

here thought would be a leftist advance. In Japan, most politicians agree, organization rather than policies or personalities wins elections. They will also agree that the strength of a political organization is directly proportional to the amount of money available.

Foreign Gifts Denied

Shortly after the election, a Japanese press report said that the Liberal Democrats had decided not to accept further political contributions from foreigners. A spokesman, when asked about this, denied that foreigners had ever contributed.

Another recent incident was a Japanese interpreter's charge that he was approached by the CIA to tone down, in translations, the remarks of singer Joan Baez,

known for her anti-Vietnam and pacifist leanings. The interpreter, however, changed his story several times and left the inconclusive impression that the incident was either a clumsy maneuver or a hoax.

Most of the CIA rumors have come from speculative newspaper and magazine articles and nothing so far has been proved.

Nor, apparently, has the issue caught the imagination of the Japanese public. On a popular Sunday television quiz show this week, a kimono-clad woman who was doing quite well was asked the initials of the American intelligence service.

"FBI?" she ventured. "No," said the moderator, "but take another try." The contestant then came out with "CIO"—and lost the \$80 prize.